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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

This publication provides a periodic review of internal security in underdeveloped countries where there is a threat from Communist-supported insurgency.

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Office of Current Intelligence 4 January 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Review of Insurgency Problems

1. Thailand

Several small and inconclusive contacts have been made with subversives during the course of a 250-man police security operation in Nakhon Phanom Province. The operation, initiated on 26 December in response to a subversive attack on a small police outpost five days earlier, is being conducted in an isolated area of the Phu Phan mountain range where subversive activity is reportedly centered. Three air strikes have been made by Thai T-28 planes during the operation, with only limited success, according to preliminary reports. One policeman has been killed, the only casualty reported thus far. Police have captured Communist documents, propaganda material, and some foodstuffs and medicine. At latest report the operation is continuing with a battalion of army troops brought in to reinforce police elements.

The first anniversary of the Thai Patriotic Front has been observed in a lengthy statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Thai People. The statement is a standard attack on the "Thanom-Praphat lackey government," but it appears to put even greater emphasis than usual on the expanding US presence in Thailand in an apparent effort to portray Communist efforts as a struggle for "independence." The statement, calling for an enlargement of the armed struggle into a "people's war," also holds out the prospect of increased activity in the new year. This theme was echoed at a 1 January reception in Peking by a Chinese official who said that the Patriotic Front would "undoubtedly"

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make an even greater contribution to the fight against "US imperialism." The reception was hosted by Mongkon Na Nakhon, former liaison representative of the Thai Independence movement, who has now become assistant permanent representative of the Thai Patriotic Front.

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2. Colombia

Insurgent activity was at a minimum in Colombia during the Christmas - New Year holiday season, in no small part because of army and police vigilance. A bandit attack on an isolated farming center in south central Colombia on 30 December may have been the work of elements of the Communist-directed band of Tiro Fijo, who is apparently fleeing eastward. Reports of Tiro Fijo's presence in Havana on New Year's Eve appear to be fabrications. The security forces' newly acquired power to arrest known subversives as a preventive measure seems not to have been exercised as yet, although some people have been arrested for distributing propaganda.

An end-of-the-year report issued by the War Ministry claimed only 75 military personnel were killed by violence in 1965. Twenty bandit gangs were eliminated, 545 bandits were killed, and 324 farmers lost their lives in bandit raids. In 1964, 82 troops were killed, as were 350 bandits and 689 civilians.

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3. Paraguay

The power struggle presently taking place within the Paraguayan Communist Party (PCP) may well affect the prospects for a renewal of insurgency in Paraguay. The PCP--already split by a dispute which led to the formation of the pro-Chinese Paraguayan Leninist-Communist Party (PCLP) in 1963--appears to have been further torn apart by the formation of a "Committee for the Defense and Reorganization of the PCP." This group, headed by many of Paraguay's leading Communists including Obdulio Barthe, number-two man in the PCP--has rejected the authoritarian leadership of PCP founder and secretary general Oscar Creydt.

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The group's leaders accused Creydt of denouncing party members to the police and of plotting to establish a party based only on those who serve him unconditionally. They have stated that "the peaceful road to revolution is closed," and many blame Creydt's poor leadership for the failure of past attempts to initiate guerrilla warfare. Many PCP members

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have been expelled for personal rather than ideological reasons, with the result that at the present time there may well be more PCP leaders outside the party than in.

The PCP dispute has spilled over into the international Communist arena. Creydt expelled many party members while the PCP suffered continuing This culminated in the almost total annihilation of Communist guerrillas active in Paraguay between 1959 and 1962. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) counseled moderation, and Creydt blamed the Argentine Communist Party for interfering in PCP affairs. Obdulio Barthe and other PCP leaders went to the USSR in 1962, closely followed by Creydt, who accused them of divisive activities. Creydt continued to work in a highly personal manner, isolating himself from large segments of the central committee.

In April 1965, Creydt again went to Moscow-this time en route to North Vietnam, ostensibly to study guerrilla methods--and again accused the Argentine, Uruguayan, and Soviet parties of continuing to meddle in PCP affairs. Soviet leaders in July 1965 met in Moscow with both Creydt and the Barthe groups simultaneously--and apparently the fur flew. As a result, the CPSU decided to make no further effort of its own to solve the PCP's problems, but to work through other Latin American Communist parties with the objective of isolating Creydt.

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The initial effect of this divisive dispute has probably been a further weakening of the PCP's very limited capabilities to undertake insurgency in Paraguay. The government's mid-summer round-up of guerrilla cadres in central Paraguay effectively decimated their ranks, and it is unlikely that new However, should groups can be formed quickly. Barthe and his faction gain control--as seems likely-it is quite possible that they will eventually be able to return to the policy of active guerrilla warfare, and that they will receive increased support from other Communist parties. It is also probable that many former party members -- perhaps including some from the PCLP--will return to the revitalized PCP, further enhancing its insurgency capabilities.

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4. Peru

Seven guerrillas of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) in the central zone reportedly have been killed since 14 December. Included in this number is Jaime Martinez, deputy to central zone leader Guillermo Lobaton. Although Lobaton himself was reported killed in the 14 December clash with government troops, subsequent conflicting reports indicate he may still be at large. However, the recent casualties suffered by his group probably have crippled it as an effective fighting unit, even if still under his leadership.

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President Belaunde's recent speeches at several armed forces graduation exercises have reflected the government's continued confidence that the guerrilla threat has been reduced. At some

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